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Creative MACHINE EMBROIDERY

IDEAS, INSPIRATIONS & TECHNIQ

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10 Easy Fixes for Embroidery Mistakes

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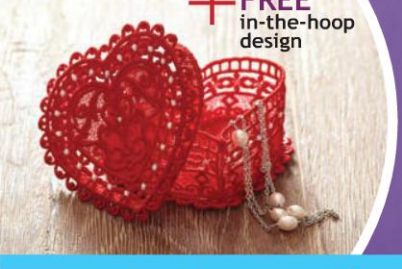

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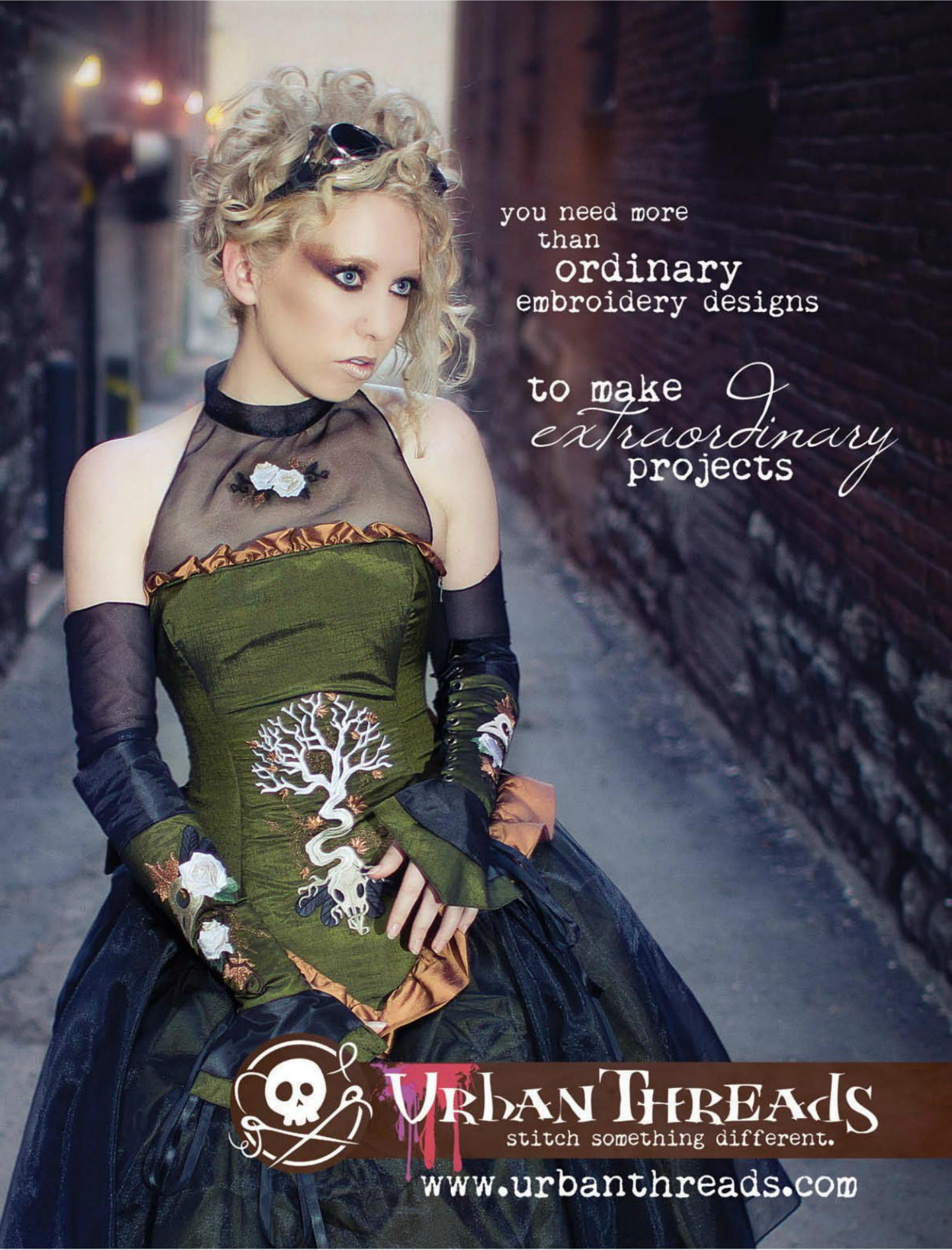
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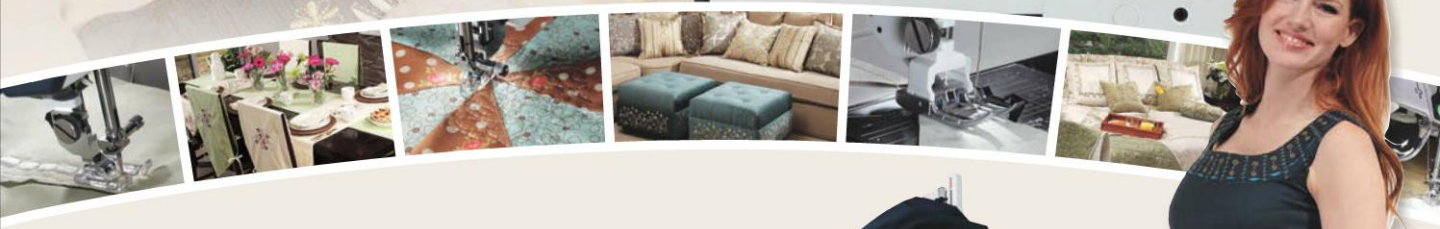

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Creative MACHINE EMBROIDERY

IDEAS, INSPIRATIONS & TECHNIQUES

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Please recycle this magazine.

Happy New Year! One of the pleasures of beginning a new year is getting a fresh start. We put the past behind us and look to the future, plan exciting adventures and set new goals. Here at *CME*, we've surpassed our 10 year milestone and are looking ahead to what will come during the next ten years.

It's difficult to predict how machine embroidery will evolve by the year 2021. Will every home-sewing machine have embroidery capabilities? I sure hope so, because everyone deserves the chance to try it and see just how simple it really is! And it will only get easier with advancements in technology and more access to education.

Even in 2012, sewing and embroidery is right at our fingertips. There are so many resources that offer instant help when we're in the middle of a project and things just aren't going well. From sewing apps on smartphones to friends on Facebook, there's always someone or something to help when we're having an embroidery crisis. And don't forget to reference past *CME* issues along with cmemag.com and sewingdistrict.com. Plus, actual books are still being published—they'll forever be a favorite resource for timeless information.

The point is, no matter how long the embroidery world has been at it, there are always new developments and improvements to make. We'll never truly know everything about sewing or embroidery, but isn't that what makes it so fun? So I propose we all make a resolution together to continue our love of embroidery and push the envelope with our skill level and design comfort zone. Let's all try something new at the machine this year and see what inspiration comes from it.

If you've never tried thread velvet, turn to page 34 to learn how. You'll love this embellishment because it's so easy, yet others will think it took you years to master. Or design your own fleece top to wear on chilly nights. Embroidering fleece is easy if you know a few simple tips and use the right products to ensure success. Turn to page 32 for helpful how-tos.

Thanks for starting another year with *CME*. Let us know what you'd like to learn this year at info@cmemag.com.

Sincerely,

Ellen

Ellen March,
Editor-in-Chief

Sneak Preview

In the March/April issue, we're celebrating spring with festive baskets and purses. Don't miss it when it hits newsstands on February 14.

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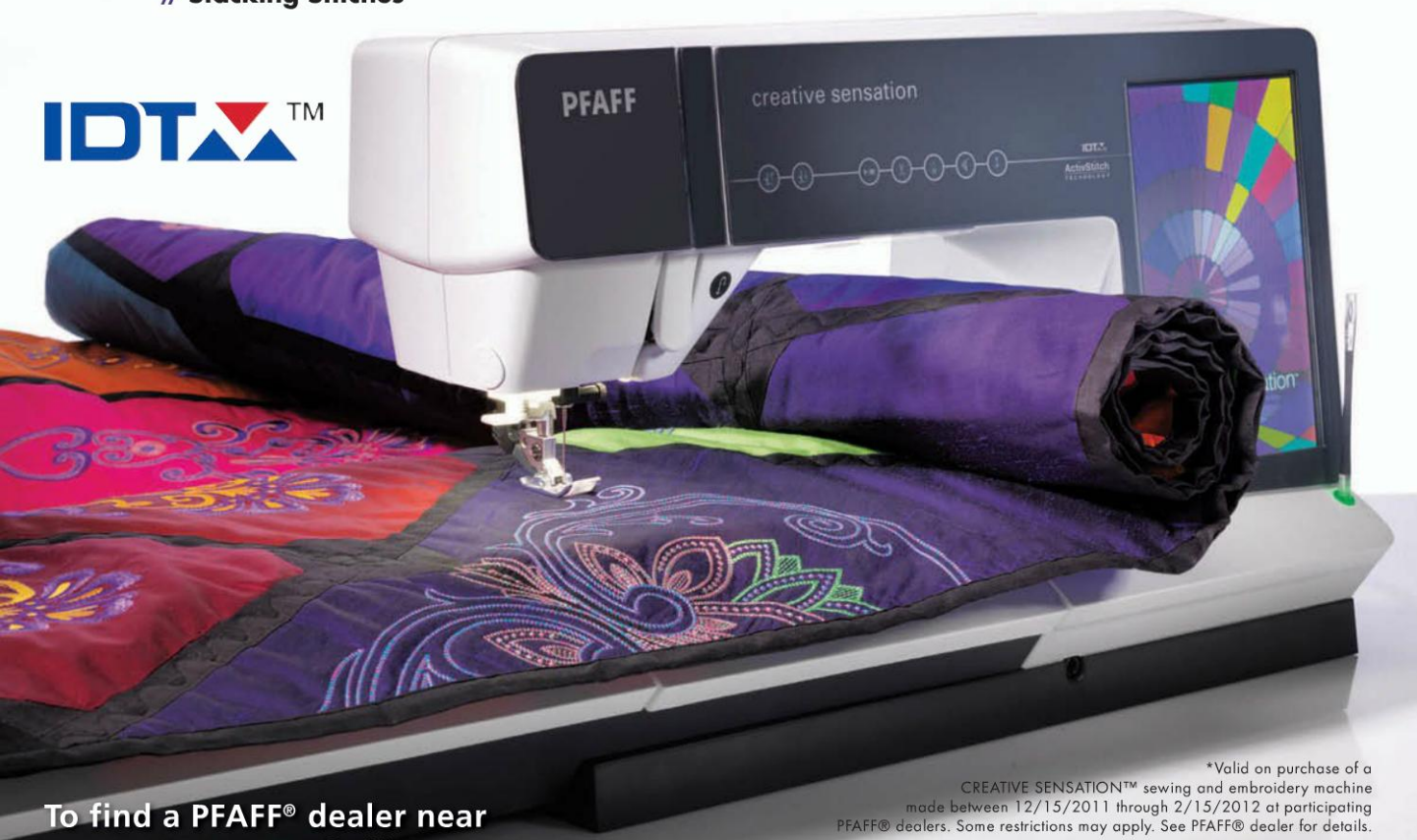

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Learn about our talented experts.

Susan Fears
("All Wrapped Up"—page 30) is a Bernina of America educator and trainer who hosts virtual programs, teaches at events and sews whenever possible.
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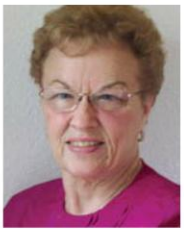

Sue Barnabee
("Budget Friendly: Lace Basket"—page 28) is a long time educator, dressmaker, designer and author.
Home Base: Farmington, IL

Nancy Fiedler
("Tech Support"—page 24) is a Janome America educator. She travels the country teaching a variety of sewing and embroidery techniques.
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Susan Beck
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Michele Mishler
("Alaskan Landscape"—page 42) is a freelance consultant and educator who specializes in creating projects for the embroidery enthusiast.
Home Base: Junction City, OR

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Stabilizer Saver

If a piece of water-soluble stabilizer is slightly too small to hoop, adhere a small piece of masking tape to the outer edge of the inner hoop. Hoop the stabilizer, and then finger-press the stabilizer edge to the tape. The tape secures the stabilizer, preventing it from slipping out of the hoop during embroidery.
Betty D., *CME* blog

Have a Ball

Prevent metallic thread from twisting as it unravels off the spool by threading the end through a hand sewing needle, and then pushing the needle through the center of a small Styrofoam ball. Place the spool on the sewing machine and thread the machine. Monitor the ball to make sure it doesn't shift drastically while stitching. Use heavyweight, but not dense, Styrofoam balls for best results.
Janice S., Facebook

Cover Up

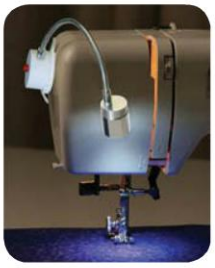
When changing the machine needle, place a paper or fabric scrap over the feed dogs. If you accidently drop the needle, it won't fall into the bobbin case, where it's difficult to remove.
Brenda K., Facebook

In the Bag

Embroidering ready-made bags is difficult because they're hard to hoop. To easily embroider a ready-made bag, turn the bag wrong side out. Hoop the fabric with the embroidery area right side facing up. Hold the remainder of the bag away from the hoop and needle during embroidery.
Linda M., *CME* blog

Color Coded

The original labels on my embroidery thread spools usually fall off. To reference the thread brand and color number, I adhere a loose-leaf reinforcement sticker (found at office supply stores) marked with the thread brand name and color number to the spool top.
Rose L., Nanuet, NY



Featured readers received a sewing machine light from Bendable Bright Light. For more information or to purchase a Bendable Bright Light, visit bendablebrightlight.com.

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Check out these eight great embroidery essentials to stock up your sewing room.

DESIGN STAR

Transform your personal photos, paintings, fabric design and other images into embroidered works of art using the **Flip-Pal mobile scanner** and **PE-Design Next** embroidery software. ($199.99 for the scanner & $1199 for the software, brother-usa.com)

LIGHT BRIGHT

Illuminate your work area and store all of your small embroidery tools with the **Craft Caddy Lamp.** ($79.99, ottlite.com)

"I like to construct home-dec items because they make my home unique." – Nancy H., Facebook

HOME BASE

Learn how to successfully sew home-décor items using ***Sewing Home Décor: The Basics and Beyond*** by Shannon Dennis as a guide. A bonus 45-minute DVD tutorial is also included. ($27.95, landauercorp.com)

FREE-MOTION FUN

Easily perform free-motion embroidery with the **Octi-Hoop Complete Kit.** The kit includes three hoop sizes that work on any machine, three stabilizers, embroidery and quilting patterns, and an instructional DVD. ($129, hoopitall.com)

BE SEATED

Sew with comfort by sitting on the **SewErgo Ergonomic chair** while at the machine. The chair has custom features, such as a height adjuster and waterfall seat edge that relieves pressure. ($99, reliablecorporation.com)

PILLOW PLAY

Make comfy yet trendy pillows to update your home décor using the **"Must Have" Pillows** pattern. ($13.95, amybutlerdesign.com)

"My lower back and legs are stiff after sewing for a long time. I'm definitely in need of an ergonomic chair."– Dawn E., Facebook

STUNNING SOLIDS

Stock up on solid outdoor fabrics that make wonderful canvases for embroidery with **The Topeka fabric collection.** The collection is composed of 100% cotton fabric in seven lovely colors. ($9.99/yard, premierprintsfabric.com)

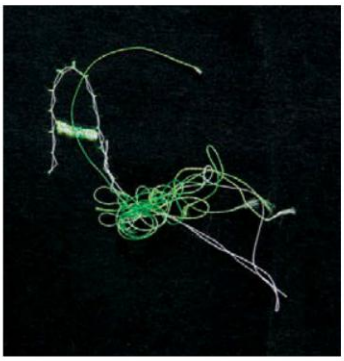
FINE ART

Use the **Artistic Sewing Suite** to create custom embroideries. The software has useful features, including over 350 built-in designs and a heat transfer tool that can fuse any artwork to fabric. ($799, janome.com)

Fixing Embroidery Mistakes

by Kay Hickman

Even after careful planning, design placement and test-stitching, mistakes often occur during the final stitchout. Learn multiple ways to fix mistakes that may make the design look better than the original.



A thread nest

Don't Panic

Once a mistake is discovered, immediately stop the machine and walk away. Walking away for even a minute helps calm your nerves and gives you an opportunity to think about a proper solution.

Once you've cooled off, return to the project, but don't remove the fabric from the hoop. Keeping the fabric in the hoop increases the number of solutions. Make note of any design changes, such as sizing or rotation, and the design and needle position. Analyze the problem and review the possible solutions.

Thread Nest

A thread nest is a tangled bundle of needle thread that appears on the fabric wrong side **(A).** It usually occurs during the first few stitches of a color change, accompanied by an audible noise. If you continue stitching, the thread nest is covered by the remainder of the design, making it impossible to remove.

Cause: A thread nest is caused by incorrect threading, usually when the presser foot is down. When the presser foot is raised, the two machine tension discs spread apart and the thread lies between them. When the presser foot is lowered, the tension discs close with the proper amount of tension applied to the thread.

If the presser foot is down when the machine is threaded, the thread lies above instead of between the tension discs. During the first few stitches, the machine isn't stitching with any tension, creating a large thread nest on the fabric wrong side.

Fix: Once you hear the machine noise or feel the fabric bunch, stop the machine, remove the hoop from the machine, and then carefully cut away the thread nest with a pair of sharp, small scissors. Rethread the machine with the presser foot up.

Outlines

Cause: Slightly misaligned outlines occur because the stabilizer is too lightweight for the design or the hoop screw is too loose **(B).**

Prevent

- Use the correct stabilizer weight for the fabric. If uncertain of which stabilizer to use, choose a variety that's slightly more heavyweight than the fabric or use two stabilizer layers.
- Tighten the hoop screw. A loose hoop allows the fabric to move as the fill stitches are embroidered, prohibiting the outline stitches from embroidering along the fill stitch perimeter.

Fix: Use a permanent fine-tip marker or pen and color in the visible fabric between the outline and fill stitches **(C).**

Problem: Extremely misaligned outlines look like the machine has stitched in one area, and then the needle moved to another position and started stitching **(D).**

Cause: The embroidery arm bumped into something during stitching.

Prevent

- Keep chairs away from the front of the machine.
- Place the machine far away from the wall to allow for complete arm and hoop movement.

Cause: A surge (or drop) in power.

Prevent

- Use a surge protector with a surge limiting voltage of at least 330 volts to prevent electrical fluctuations.
- Invest in a battery backup system, especially if you live in an area prone to power fluctuations. A battery backup system keeps the machine running for a short amount of time, allowing you to note the design settings or stop the design at a convenient point in the stitchout.

Fix

Fixing extremely misaligned outlines depends on how much of the design is stitched before the issue occurs and how much time it will take to remove the stitches.

- Stop the machine and remove the hoop, but don't remove the fabric from the hoop. Remove the stitches from the misaligned portion (refer to "Removing Embroidery Stitches" on page 17). Place the hoop back onto the machine and start to embroider at the beginning of the removed stitching. If the misaligned outline was caused by an electrical problem, turn off the machine, and then turn it back on to ensure the design stitches properly. If the machine isn't turned off, it may store incorrect information in its temporary memory, which may cause the design to stitch incorrectly.

B slightly misaligned outline

C Color in fabric between outline and fill stitches.

D extremely misaligned outline

E feathering

F fabric show-through

G Use a topper to prevent fabric show-through.

- The easiest way to correct a misaligned design is to cover it with an appliqué (refer to "Appliqué " on page 18).

Feathering

Cause: The design outlines are slightly misaligned and have a feathered appearance. Or the final design outline doesn't stitch directly over the original outline, creating misaligned design outlines. Both problems are caused by the machine stitching too fast **(E).**

Prevent: Reduce the machine stitching speed.

Fabric Show-Through

Cause: Some embroidery designs have very few fill stitches, which are intentionally digitized so the fabric shows through. However, if a design has dense fill stitches and the fabric still shows through, it creates an unattractive design. This usually occurs when stitching a light-colored thread on dark fabric **(F).**

Prevent

- Change the design density on the machine screen. The density is then changed for the entire design and specific design elements can't be changed.
- In embroidery software, increase the density for the specific design elements.
- Use a topper, which is designed to prevent fabric from showing through the stitching. A vinyl topper permanently remains within the design stitches **(G).**

Fix: If the problem occurs on the final project, try restitching the area before moving to the next thread color. If you wait until the design is completely finished, you may need to restitch more than one color if additional shading or stitches conceal the area. Restitching the area can result in misaligned outlines because the design density is increased.

Puckering

Cause: Fabric puckering around an embroidery design is a common problem and usually caused because of improper hooping and/or using insufficient stabilizer **(H).**

Prevent

- Don't stretch, tug or pull the fabric when hooping. Even woven fabrics are often distorted by pulling the fabric during hooping. Make sure the fabric is taut, but not overly tight in the hoop.
- Secure fabric to stabilizer using temporary spray adhesive before hooping. Stabilizer doesn't stretch, which prevents fabric from stretching when it's adhered to the stabilizer.
- Loosen the hoop screw sufficiently before placing the inner hoop within the outer hoop.
- Finger-tighten the hoop screw as much as possible after the fabric and stabilizer are hooped.
- Before embroidering, use the baste-in-the-hoop function, if applicable, to further secure the fabric to the stabilizer.

Fix

Proper pressing is the only way to fix puckered fabric once the embroidery is complete.

- Position the fabric with the embroidery right side down on a plush towel. Press the fabric wrong side. The design right side sinks into the towel, retaining the design dimension, while allowing you to press the fabric beyond the design perimeter.
- If wrinkles persist, use your fingers to gently smooth the fabric while it's still warm. Let the fabric cool before removing the fabric from the towel.

Removing Embroidery Stitches

When removing embroidery stitches, always work slowly and carefully for the best results. Don't remove the fabric from the hoop. If the fabric is removed from the hoop, don't remove any stabilizer until the stitches are removed.

Even after the stitches are removed, needle penetration holes remain in the fabric. Some fabrics are permanently damaged by needle perforations. Restitching the same design over the area generally covers the needle holes; however, use a larger design or appliqué for best results.

Surgical Seam Ripper

- Place the fabric right side down on a flat work surface.
- From the fabric wrong side, take shallow, small cuts along the stitching to gradually remove the thread **(I).** Pressing too hard on the seam ripper tip can cut through the fabric, creating a permanent hole.
- Occasionally turn the fabric to the right side and loosen the threads with your fingernail.
- Use a standard seam ripper to remove very small stitches close to the fabric. Slide the seam ripper point under the stitch, and then cut the thread.

Electric Stitch Removal Tool

Use an electric stitch removal tool to quickly remove stitches. The tool resembles a mustache trimmer, but the blades are specially designed to cut thread. The tool can be used on the fabric right side; however, the chances of cutting through the fabric are much greater.

- Place the fabric right side down on a flat work surface. Hold the tool upside down in your hand, and then gently maneuver the blades over the bobbin stitches **(J).**
- Satin or column stitches are the easiest to remove. Gradually slide the tool blades back and forth through the bobbin stitches.
- Fill stitches require more time and patience to remove. Gradually move the tool blades in small circles. Stop periodically to remove the thread fuzz that accumulates.
- Occasionally turn over the fabric with the design right side facing up and loosen the threads with your fingernail.

H puckering

I Remove stitches.

J electric stitch removal tool

K Cut away stabilizer.

L Position appliqué over mistake; stitch.

M Stitch appliqué perimeter.

Appliqué

Sometimes it's easier to cover the original design with an appliqué. If the original stitches remain in the garment, stitching another design over the original can cause the needle to break. Create a design or patch appliqué to conceal the mistake.

Design Appliqué

- Select a design that's easily cut out and has a solid shape. Avoid designs that have spiral outlines or no fill stitches. Choose a design that's large enough to entirely cover the mistake.
- Hoop a piece of mesh cut-away stabilizer that closely matches the project fabric color. Use black stabilizer for dark fabric, white stabilizer for light fabric or beige stabilizer for colored fabric.
- Embroider the design. When the embroidery is complete, cut away the stabilizer as close to the design perimeter as possible without cutting any threads **(K).** Apply a thin line of seam sealant around the design before cutting.
- Thread the machine needle with monofilament thread and select a straight, zigzag or blanket stitch. Position the appliqué over the mistake and stitch the appliqué perimeter **(L).**

Patch Appliqué

- Select the same fabric as the damaged fabric for a subtle look. Select contrasting fabric for a bold look, making it appear that the appliqué was your original intent.
- Hoop a piece of fabric that's large enough to conceal the mistake with stabilizer that matches the design density and fabric weight.
- Embroider the desired design. When the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and the fabric from the hoop. Remove the stabilizer.
- Determine the desired appliqué shape and size, making sure the appliqué will cover the mistake. Trim the appliqué to the desired shape.
- Adhere fusible web to the appliqué wrong side, following the manufacturer's instructions. Position the appliqué wrong side over the mistake; fuse.
- Float a piece of lightweight tear-away stabilizer under the fabric wrong side.
- Select a blanket or satin stitch on the machine. Stitch the appliqué perimeter **(M).**

DESIGNS

Celtic knot: OESD, Signature Collection #11017, Celtic Knots 1, NV710, Knot #8; embroideryonline.com
Christmas tree: OESD, DHC009; embroideryonline.com
Magnolia: OESD, Signature Collections #12301, Magnolia en Fleur, FQ990_48, Jumbo White Magnolia Boarder; embroideryonline.com
Puppy: OESD, Signature Collections #12274, Christmas Puppies, HG420_48, Terrier Puppy; embroideryonline.com
Small flower: Built-in design (PA229) from OESD Explorations Software; embroideryonline.com

SOURCES

OESD provided the TopCover mesh cut-away stabilizer: embroideryonline.com.
Sakura of America carries .25mm Pigma Micron permanent pens: sakuraofamerica.com.
YLI provided the Wonder Invisible thread: (803) 985-3100, ylicorp.com.

Jenny Haskins

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Textured

by Cheryl Stranges

Textured fabric may seem difficult to embroider, but using proper designs and stabilizers helps produce high-quality embroidery. If you've never embroidered textured fabric, take a picture of the fabric, and then open it as a background on a new page in an embroidery software program. Experiment by placing designs onto the page to get an idea of how the finished embroidery will look.

Kwik Sew
3031
(modified)

Types

- Textured fabric is available in various types, including quilted, Swiss dotted, waffle-weaved, dimpled and more.

Use

- Use textured fabric when creating garments, such as tops, blouses and skirts; home-dec items, including bags, kitchen linens and blankets; accessories; and more.

Needles

- Use a new 80/12 or 90/14 embroidery needle for most textured fabrics. Experiment with the needle size on a piece of scrap fabric to make sure the fabric and needle size work well together.

Thread

- Choose from a variety of thread types, such as cotton, rayon, polyester and metallic, depending on the desired finished look. Use metallic thread to create sparkle or cotton thread for a matte look. Choose a thread weight that corresponds with the fabric weight. Use all-purpose thread for construction.

Sewing Tips

- Add ribbon, beads and other embellishments to projects for a personal touch.
- Silk doupioni has a similar right and wrong side, so omit a lining if desired.
- Reinforce seams using an overcast or wide zigzag stitch or bind seams with twill tape, if necessary.
- If the fabric contains stretch, preshrink the fabric before stitching to prevent shrinkage.

Care

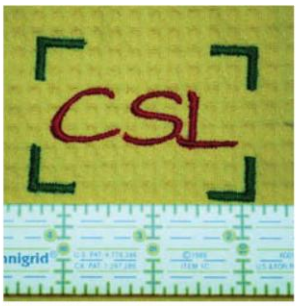
- Care instructions vary depending on the fabric content. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper care. Don't launder fabrics that may be damaged by water, such as satin and silk.

Stabilizer

- Choose stabilizer that best suits the chosen fabric. For example, use cut-away varieties when working with knits, water-soluble varieties when working with washable fabrics and adhesive varieties when working with fabrics that can't be hooped or may suffer from hoop burn. Test the chosen stabilizer variety on a fabric scrap that's similar to the intended project fabric to ensure satisfactory results. Use a water-soluble topper with heavily textured fabrics to prevent designs from sinking into the fabric.

Designs

- A variety of design types work well with textured fabrics, such as monograms or geometric and outline-only designs, as they help emphasize the fabric texture. Don't use overly dense designs on lightweight fabrics.
- Monograms work well with textured fabrics, because they typically aren't dense and emphasize the fabric texture. When using waffle-weave fabrics, choose a cut- or tear-away stabilizer and lightweight water-soluble topper so the embroidery lies atop the fabric. Center the fabric within the hoop, aligning the patterned lines with the hoop cross marks. If the fabric isn't aligned, the design will stitch at an angle **(A).** Mark the design center onto the fabric using a removable fabric marker.
- Geometric designs, such as the featured diamond design, work well when embroidering textured fabric, such as Swiss dot fabric, as they easily stitch between patterns **(B).**
- Swiss dot fabric is sheer and crisp and is available in a variety of colors and prints. The dots are usually tiny and either stitched, flocked or embroidered onto the fabric. Embroider tiny dots onto sheer fabric to create Swiss dot fabric, if desired. The fabric is great to use when making blouses, tunics, dresses, slips, camisoles, curtains, gift bags, baby items, tablecloths, sheets, duvets and bed skirts.



A Design will stitch at angle if fabric isn't aligned.

B Geometric designs stitch easily between patterns.

Prewash the fabric before embroidery to prevent design distortion. Use a water-soluble topper to prevent the design from sinking into the fabric.

- When embroidering fabric that's textured with stripes, align the stripes with the vertical hoop cross marks for desirable results **(C).** Fusible tear-away stabilizer was used for the featured fabric because it's sheer; however, choose a stabilizer that best suits the chosen fabric properties. Test-stitch on a fabric scrap to determine if a water-soluble topper is necessary.

C Align stipes with vertical hoop cross marks for desirable results.

D Some fabrics don't need toppers for good embroidery results.

E Hoop velour with light-to mediumweight stabilizer and topper.

F Use quilting designs on silk doupioni.

G Embroider ready-made textured items.

- Water-soluble toppers may be unnecessary when working with lightly textured fabrics, but test-stitch on a fabric scrap to confirm. The featured lightweight cotton fabric mimics a Swiss dot and herringbone pattern and the design was stitched successfully without a topper **(D).** Use a stabilizer that corresponds with the fabric weight. Use lightweight cut- or tear-away stabilizer when working with lightweight cotton fabric.
- When embroidering velour, fuse knit tricot interfacing to the fabric wrong side on a low-temperature setting, following the manufacturer's instructions, to support the fabric while retaining the fabric hand. Hoop the fabric with a light- to mediumweight stabilizer and water-soluble topper for optimal embroidery results **(E).**
- Embellish silk doupioni with quilting designs for a refined look **(F).** Use batting instead of stabilizer to add loft and support the fabric. Use a quilting hoop, if possible, to accommodate thick fabric layers. Use silk thread for a beautiful finish.
- Ready-made textured items, such as the featured quilted cotton diaper bag, make great canvases for embroidery **(G).** When working with quilted cotton fabric, use a water-soluble topper and a fusible tear- or cut-away stabilizer in the appropriate weight.

DESIGNS

CSL border: Husqvarna Viking, #117, Mega Borders; (800) 446-2333, husqvarnaviking.com
Diaper bag: Husqvarna Viking, built-in design from the Designer Diamond embroidery & sewing machine: (800) 446-2333, husqvarnaviking.com
Dots & Hearts: Husqvarna Viking, #69, Geometric Sensations; (800) 446-2333, husqvarnaviking.com
Monograms: Husqvarna Viking, monograms created using 5D embroidery software; (800) 446-2333, husqvarnaviking.com
Quilting design: Husqvarna Viking, design included with purchase of the 200x200 Quilter's Hoop; (800) 446-2333, husqvarnaviking.com

SOURCES

Husqvarna Viking provided the embroidery software and stabilizer, and the featured samples were stitched using the Designer Diamond embroidery & sewing machine: (800) 446-2333, husqvarnaviking.com.
Kwik Sew provided the bag pattern: (612) 521-7651, kwiksew.com.

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Special Thanks for the Submissions

Question & Answer

by Nancy Fiedler

Learn how to achieve perfectly centered embroidery, prevent gumming up needles and the legalities of selling your wares.

How do I mark fabric so the embroidery design is perfectly centered in the hoop every time?

After auditioning the design onto the fabric right side, use a removable fabric marker to mark the design center using a cross mark. Hoop the fabric with appropriate stabilizer with the marked fabric right side up. Place the hoop onto the machine and load the design. Even if the design appears centered on the machine screen, double-check to make sure that the fabric center mark aligns with the needle.

- Turn the handwheel to check if the needle penetrates the fabric at the center mark.
- If the needle doesn't penetrate the mark, turn the handwheel to return the needle to the highest position.
- Use the hoop adjustment button on the machine to move the hoop until the center mark and needle align.

How do I prevent the needle from gumming up when embroidering adhesive-backed felt?

Adhesive-backed felt isn't made to stitch through, and the adhesive leaves a sticky residue on the needle.

- Don't embroider on adhesive-backed felt. Instead, embroider the chosen design on non-adhesive felt.
- Once the embroidery is complete, cut out the design from the felt.
- Apply permanent spray adhesive to the felt wrong side, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Finger-press the design to the project where desired. Always reference the manufacturer's instructions for fabric compatibility.

I want to embroider and sell products at craft shows. What are the legalities of using purchased designs and selling my wares?

When you purchase an embroidery design, you're purchasing a license to stitch it, but the design remains the designer's property. Read the license agreement that accompanies the design. Usually the agreement is posted on the manufacturer's or designer's website, or it's found on the design CD.

Some license agreements state that the design can be used for personal use, charitable donations, gifts and "sale for profit;" however, the design file can't be distributed or shared.

Read the permitted editing rights as well. Some designs may not be edited or may be edited with limitations.

Other agreements limit the amount of times a design can be used for sale of profit. Contact the designer to obtain permission for more uses, as this is considered manufacturing. Many design collections state to use the designs only for personal use. Under no circumstances should these designs be used for any other purpose.

VALENTINE SCARF

by Diane Kron, courtesy of Designer's Gallery

Make a cute heart scarf for Valentine's Day using only five supplies. The scarf is made from bamboo felt, which has a soft hand, making it comfortable to wear. Bamboo felt is made from a combination of bamboo and rayon, making it more eco-friendly than wool or craft felt.

SHOPPING LIST

1. three 20"x22" rectangles of bamboo felt
2. embroidery software with lettering capabilities
3. rayon embroidery thread
4. ¾"-tall built-in outline letters
5. heart template (see "Get Started.")

Get Started

- Download the heart template at cmemag.com/articles/Valentine_Scarf.
- From two felt rectangles, cut 42 hearts using the heart template and two 3½"x12" rectangles.

Embroider

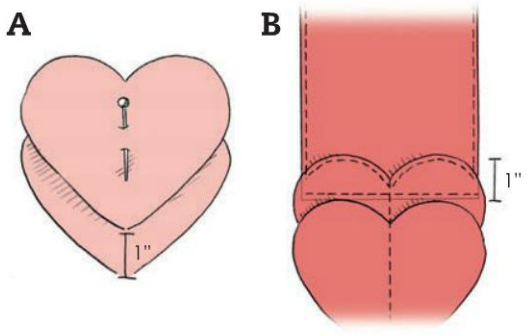
- Open a new page in the software program. Type "I Love" onto the page, and then type "You" centered ¼" below "I Love." Apply a bean stitch to the lettering. Save the design in the appropriate machine format. Close the software program.
- Load the design into the machine. Copy the design, and then place one design along the upper-left corner of the machine screen and the other design along the lower-right corner of the machine screen.
- Hoop the remaining felt rectangle. Place the hoop onto the machine and thread the machine. Embroider the designs. Once the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and the fabric from the hoop.
- Using the heart template, cut two hearts from the embroidered felt, centering the embroidery within each heart.

Tip

If desired, cut and embroider an additional heart, and then topstitch it to the rectangle center for added flair.

Construct

- With wrong sides together, pin the felt rectangles, and then stitch the long edges using a ¼" seam allowance.
- Position one embroidered heart right side down on a flat work surface. Center one plain heart right side down over the embroidered heart, with the lower edge 1" above the embroidered heart lower edge; pin **(A).** Repeat to pin 20 additional hearts and a second row of 22 hearts.
- Stitch down the center of each row to secure the hearts, removing the pins as you sew.
- With the right side up, position the last plain heart from one row over one rectangle short end, placing the heart upper edge 1" above the rectangle short end. Pin, and then edgestitch the heart upper edge and rectangle short end to secure **(B).** Repeat to stitch the last plain heart from the remaining row to the opposite rectangle short end.



DESIGN

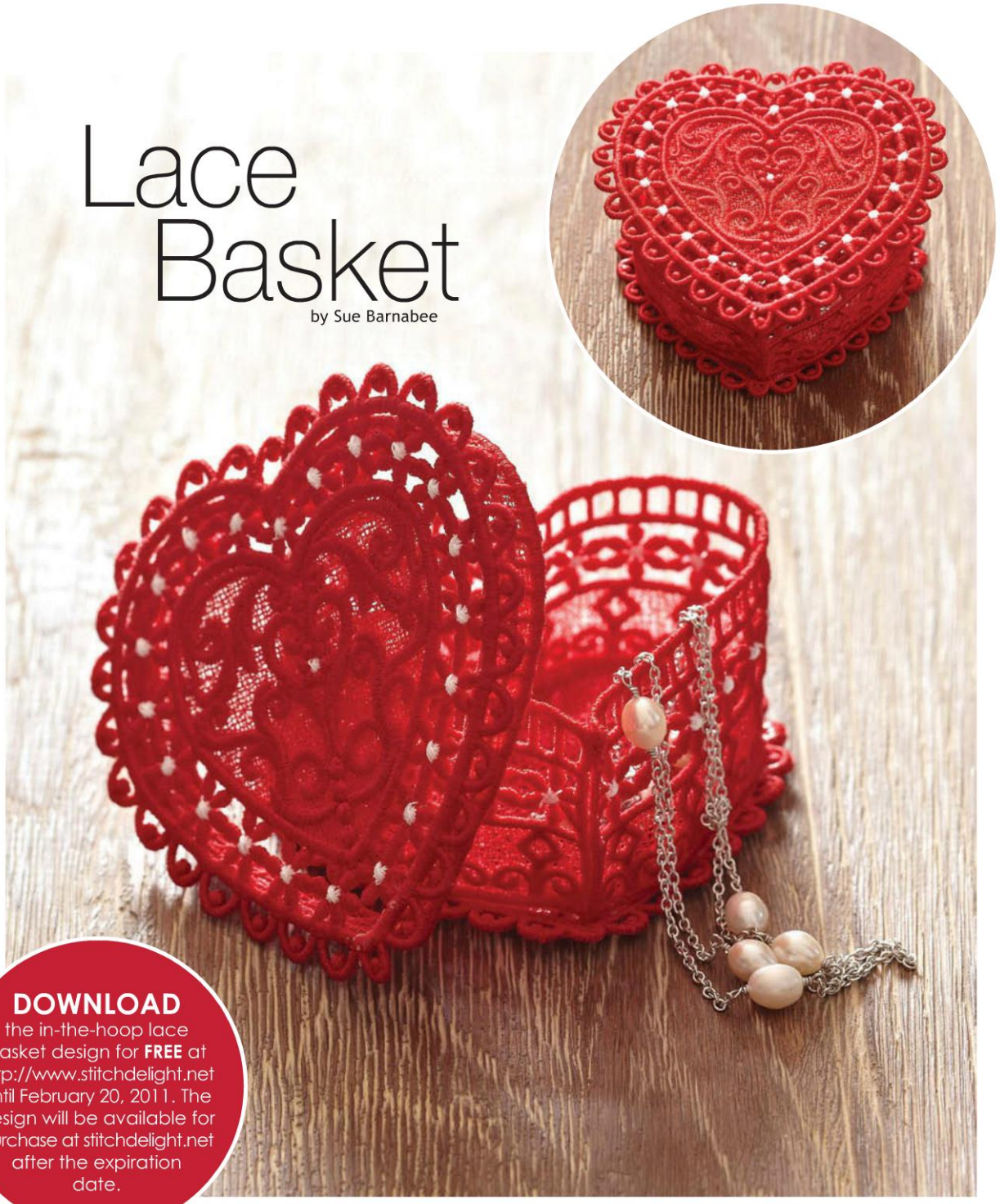
Letters: Built-in letters from LetterWorks III; designersgallerysoftware.com

SOURCES

Baby Lock provided the Ellisimo Gold sewing and embroidery machine and 130mm x 180mm hoop: babylock.com.
National Nonwovens provided the bamboo felt (#BAM001, color #0931—Macaw Red): (800) 333-3469, commonwealthfelt.com.

Lace Basket

by Sue Barnabee



DOWNLOAD the in-the-hoop lace basket design for **FREE** at http://www.stitchdelight.net until February 20, 2011. The design will be available for purchase at stitchdelight.net after the expiration date.

Stitch an adorable in-the-hoop Valentine's Day lace basket to store special goodies for the sweetie in your life. The basket is easy on the pocketbook, costing less than $15 to make!

SHOPPING LIST

☐ embroidery thread	$9.79
☐ woven water-soluble stabilizer	$1.29
☐ size 80/12 embroidery needle	$.99
☐ fabric glue	$2.29
☐ in-the-hoop lace basket design	FREE

total: $14.36

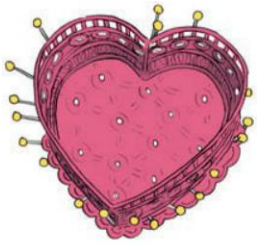
Embroider

- Thread the machine with matching embroidery thread in the needle and bobbin. Hoop a piece of stabilizer. Place the hoop onto the machine and embroider the design.
- Once the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and the stabilizer from the hoop. Cut away the stabilizer beyond each design perimeter.
- Rinse to remove the remaining stabilizer from each piece, following the manufacturer's instructions. Remove the stabilizer from each piece at the same time so an equal amount remains within each piece. Set aside the pieces to dry. If any piece warps while it's drying, place a heavyweight object on it until flat.

Construct

- Clip all jump threads from each piece. Press using a warm, dry iron to flatten the basket top and bottom. Press each basket side, pulling up the short ends as you press to shape the sides **(A).**
- Position the basket bottom right side up on a flat work surface. Center the corresponding basket sides over the bottom, forming a heart shape. Mark each side placement on the basket bottom using a pen or pencil. Remove the sides, and then apply a thin layer of fabric glue over the lines. Position the sides over the glue to secure. If desired, use a hot glue gun instead of fabric glue to secure the sides.
- Glue together the basket short ends. Pin to secure the sides to the bottom until the glue dries, following the time indicated by the manufacturer's instructions **(B).** Remove any excess glue using a moistened cotton swab. Once the glue is dry, remove the pins.
- Place the basket top right side down on a flat work surface. Secure the remaining basket sides to the basket top as per the basket bottom instructions. ■

A Shape sides.



B Pin sides.

Tip

Use a different thread color to stitch several design elements for added flair, if desired.

DESIGN

Heart box: Download the in-the-hoop heart box design for FREE at http://www.stitchdelight.net until February 20, 2011. The design will be available for purchase at stitchdelight.net after the expiration date.

SOURCE

Sulky of America provided the thread and stabilizer: (800) 874-4115, sulky.com.

All Wrapped Up

by Susan Fears

Create a comfortable and stylish fleece wrap adorned with large floral designs. The wrap is simple to stitch and great for chilly winter nights.

SHOPPING LIST

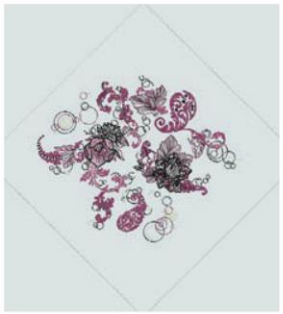
- ☐ 1 yard of fleece
- ☐ stabilizer: heavyweight mesh cut-away & lightweight tear-away
- ☐ water-soluble topper
- ☐ thread: all-purpose, bobbin & embroidery
- ☐ temporary spray adhesive
- ☐ removable fabric marker
- ☐ needles: 75/11 embroidery & 90/14 universal
- ☐ twelve ⅞"-diameter buttons
- ☐ machine feet: automatic buttonhole, button & piping
- ☐ expandable measuring gauge (optional; see "Source.")
- ☐ embroidery software with digitizing capabilities (optional)
- ☐ floral embroidery designs

Cut

- From the fleece, cut two 30"x32" rectangles. Designate one rectangle as the wrap front and one as the wrap back. Designate one wrap-front and wrap-back corner each as the upper corner.

Digitize

- Choose large-scale designs that aren't overly dense to retain the soft fabric hand. Open a new page in the software program. Draw a 30"x32" rectangle onto the page, and then rotate the rectangle 45°. Place the chosen designs into the rectangle, and then enlarge, rotate and mirror-image the chosen designs as desired **(A).**
- Change the thread color and sequence or group the colors to minimize thread color changes. The featured wrap showcases three thread colors: purple, black and white. Always preview the design stitchout on the machine screen to make sure the stitching sequence is correct.
- Test-stitch the chosen design on scrap fabric to ensure the stabilizer, fabric and design work well collectively. If some design elements have a large fill stitch area and are too dense for the fleece, remove the fill stitches using embroidery software to create an outline.
- Automatically split the design in embroidery software for multiple hoopings, or manually split the design in inconspicuous areas. Use the largest hoop available. Save the design in the appropriate machine format. Print a template of the entire design, taping together the templates as needed. Repeat to create the wrap back design **(B).**



A wrap front design layout

B wrap back design layout

- Instead of using embroidery software, enlarge, rotate and mirror-image each design on the machine screen. Print a template of each design.

Tip

Unlike enlarging designs on the machine screen, embroidery software automatically adjusts the design density after enlarging. Consult your machine manual for design resizing limitations.

Embroider

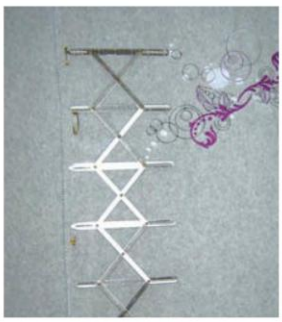
- Pin the template to the wrap front, referring to the photo on page 30 for placement inspiration. Mark the largest design center using a removable fabric marker. If using individual design templates, audition them along the wrap front. Once satisfied with the placement, mark each design center using a removable fabric marker.
- Insert a new embroidery needle and thread the needle with embroidery thread and the bobbin with bobbin thread. Load the design into the machine. Hoop a piece of cut-away stabilizer. Position the wrap front over the stabilizer, using temporary spray adhesive to secure and centering the mark within the hoop.
- Place the hoop onto the machine, aligning the needle with the cross marks. Float a piece of water-soluble topper over the wrap front. Use the perimeter basting function, if applicable, to baste the wrap and topper in the hoop. Embroider the first design.
- Once the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and the fabric from the hoop. Trim away the stabilizer beyond the design perimeter, but don't remove the topper **(C).** Repeat to embroider the remaining designs, using the embroidery machine advance feature to only perimeter baste the unstitched areas.
- Once the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and the fabric from the hoop. Trim away the stabilizer beyond the design perimeter and clip any jump threads. Don't remove the topper.
- Repeat to embroider the wrap back.

Construct

- Install a universal needle and thread the machine with all-purpose thread. Select a 6mm-wide and 3.5mm-long stretch overlock stitch and install a piping foot.
- Fold one wrap-front long edge ¼" toward the wrong side; pin. Stitch the folded edge, guiding the fold through the foot groove and making sure the needle encases the fold without penetrating the folded edge **(D).** If the hem becomes wavy, decrease the presser foot pressure.
- Repeat to hem the wrap-front and wrap-back raw edges. Remove the topper, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Measure 8" below the wrap-back upper corner along the short edge; mark ¾" from the edge using a removable fabric marker. Repeat to mark five additional buttonholes along the short edge, spacing them 2⅝" apart **(E).** Use an expandable measuring gauge to aid in placement, if desired. Mark the corresponding button placement on the wrap-front short edge.
- Measure 10" below the wrap-back upper corner along the long edge; mark ¾" from the edge. Repeat to mark five additional buttonholes along the long edge, spacing them 2⅝" apart. Use an expandable measuring gauge to aid in placement, if desired. Mark the corresponding button placements on the wrap-front long edge.
- Install an automatic buttonhole foot on the machine and select a stretch buttonhole stitch, widening the slit width to accommodate the fabric bulk, if applicable. Center two lightweight tear-away stabilizer layers over the first

C Trim stabilizer.

D Stitch along folded edge.



E Mark buttonholes.

buttonhole mark on the wrap wrong side. Float a piece of water-soluble topper over the buttonhole mark on the wrap right side. Stitch the buttonhole.

- Repeat to stitch the remaining buttonholes. Carefully tear away the stabilizer beyond each buttonhole perimeter and remove the topper. Cut open the buttonholes.
- Install a button foot on the machine and select a button stitch. Center two heavyweight cut-away stabilizer layers over the first button mark on the wrap-front wrong side. Stitch the button along the mark on the wrap right side. Trim the stabilizer to a ½" square. Repeat to stitch the remaining buttons to the wrap front.

DESIGNS

Circles, florals, leaves, paisleys and scrolls: OESD, #12297, Flourish Fashion, Fashion Circles (FQ967_48), Fashion Circles Curve (FQ968_48), Fashion Flourish 1 (FQ970_48), Fashion Flourish 3 (FQ972_48), Fashion Leaves Flourish 1 (FQ958_48), Fashion Leaves Flourish 3 (FQ960_48), Fashion Leaves Flourish 4 (FQ971_48), Fashion Paisley (FQ976_48), Fashion Paisley 2 (FQ977_48), Floral Fashion (FQ980_48), Large Floral Fashion (FQ982_48); embroideryonline.com

SOURCE

Nancy's Notions carries the Simflex expanding gauge: (800) 833-0690, nancysnotions.com.

In Full Bloom

by Cheryl Stranges

Make a pretty pillowcase embellished with beautiful thread velvet embroidery to add to your home décor. Thread velvet designs "bloom" after the embroidery is complete, giving the pillowcase texture and dimension.

SHOPPING LIST

- ☐ ½ yard each of linen & coordinating print fabric
- ☐ ¼ yard of silk doupioni
- ☐ mediumweight tear-away stabilizer
- ☐ thread: 40-wt. rayon embroidery, 60-wt. bobbin & all-purpose
- ☐ needles: 75/11 universal & 80/12 topstitching
- ☐ 20" square of fusible tricot interfacing
- ☐ 18" square pillow form
- ☐ 1¼ yards of ⅜"-wide cording
- ☐ 17"-long invisible zipper
- ☐ machine feet: edge joining, piping & invisible zipper
- ☐ small sharp scissors
- ☐ removable fabric marker
- ☐ 11" square thread velvet embroidery design

Cut

- From the linen, cut one 28" bias square.
- From the print fabric, cut two 11¼"x24" large rectangles, two 2½"x24" small rectangles and four 7"x7"x9½" triangles.
- From the silk, cut two 2½"x76" strips. Piece together strips to achieve the needed length, if necessary.
- Cut the cording in half.

Embroider

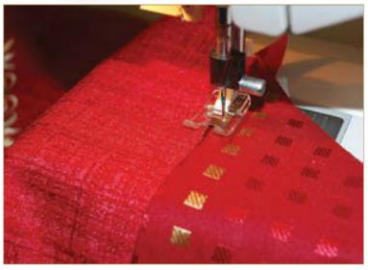
- Test-stitch the chosen design on scrap fabric to ensure the stabilizer, fabric and design work well collectively. Make sure the chosen scissors are sharp enough to efficiently cut the threads along the thread velvet sections. If the scissors aren't satisfactory, use a small rotary cutter or seam ripper.
- Fold the linen rectangle in half widthwise and lengthwise with right sides together; unfold. Mark the foldline intersection using a removable fabric marker.
- Hoop the linen rectangle with a piece of tear-away stabilizer, centering the mark within the hoop. Load the design into the machine and thread the machine with rayon embroidery thread in the needle and bobbin thread in the bobbin. Place the hoop onto the machine. If using a print fabric for embroidery, position an organza square over the design area to dull the print appearance, allowing the embroidery to stand out.
- Embroider the design. Once the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine. Tear away the stabilizer beyond the design perimeter. Cut through the satin stitching along the thread velvet sections, as indicated by the design instructions. Remove the fabric from the hoop; press.
- Center the interfacing square over the embroidered square wrong side; fuse, following the manufacturer's instructions.

Tip

Use test-samples as a reference for future embroidery projects.

Tip

After cutting, gently brush the released threads using a felting brush to help give the design a "blooming" appearance.



A Stitch triangle lower edge.

B Stitch close to cording.

C Stitch zipper.

D Topstitch pillowcase.

Construct

Use ⅝" seam allowances.

- Position the embroidered square right side up on a flat work surface. Fold each triangle long edge ½" toward the wrong side; press. Designate each triangle long edge as the lower edge. Position each triangle upper corner along one square corner with right sides facing up, aligning the points. Install an edge joining foot and universal needle onto the machine. Thread the machine with all-purpose thread in the needle and bobbin. Stitch each triangle lower edge **(A).** Designate the square as the pillow front.
- Fold one silk strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together; unfold. Center one cording length over the foldline along the fabric wrong side. Fold the strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together, concealing the cording. Install a piping foot onto the machine. Stitch close to the cording to create welting **(B).** If desired, gather the fabric around the cording until the gathers are evenly distributed along the strip. Baste close to the cording to secure the gathers. Trim the excess fabric beyond each welting end.
- Unzip the zipper. With right sides together, center one zipper tape over one small rectangle, aligning

the long edges; pin. Install the invisible zipper foot onto the machine, and then stitch close to the zipper teeth **(C).** Repeat to stitch the opposite zipper tape to one long edge of the remaining small rectangle.

- With right sides together, center one welting length over one small rectangle long edge, aligning the raw edges; stitch close to the cording. Repeat to stitch the remaining welting length to one long edge of the remaining small rectangle.
- With right sides together, align one large rectangle long edge with one small rectangle welting edge, sandwiching the welting seam. Stitch close to the cording. Repeat to stitch the remaining large rectangle to the remaining small rectangle to create the pillow back.
- Trim the pillow front and back each to a 21" square. With right sides together, align the pillow front and back; stitch the perimeter. Turn the pillow right side out through the zipper opening.
- Install a topstitching needle onto the machine, and then thread the machine with rayon embroidery thread in the needle and bobbin. Topstitch 1" from one pillowcase edge, beginning the stitching along one triangle lower edge. At the next triangle lower edge, stitch along the edge, and then continue stitching 1" from the adjacent pillowcase edge **(D).** Continue stitching the remaining pillowcase perimeter, stitching close to each triangle lower edge.
- Insert the pillow form into the pillowcase.

DESIGN

Thread velvet: Husqvarna Viking, Thread Velvet Décor (collection #196), Hearts Squared Medallion; (800) 446-2333, husqvarnaviking.com or myembroideries.com

SOURCE

Husqvarna Viking provided the Designer Diamond embroidery and sewing machine, Sapphire sewing machine, Inspira tear-away stabilizer and 5D embroidery software: (800) 446-2333, husqvarnaviking.com.

Simplicity
3956,
View B & C
(modified)

Sheer Beauty

by Shannon Dennis

Make a flowing, feminine tunic top that's perfect to pair with jeans for a day of shopping or nice slacks for a day at the office.

SHOPPING LIST

- ☐ tunic top pattern (such as Simplicity 3956)
- ☐ 2 yards of silk
- ☐ 2½ yards of chiffon print fabric
- ☐ notions (according to pattern envelope)
- ☐ lightweight tear-away stabilizer
- ☐ thread: all-purpose, elastic & embroidery
- ☐ two 4"x18" strips of fusible knit interfacing
- ☐ temporary spray adhesive
- ☐ pattern tracing paper
- ☐ removable fabric marker
- ☐ hand sewing needle
- ☐ floral outline embroidery design (no larger than 2" wide)

Get Started

Note: The featured tunic was made using View B for the bodice and View C for the sleeves.

Tip

Use coordinating, contrasting or matching chiffon fabric, depending on the desired finished look. Purchase extra fabric to experiment with fabric combinations.

- Position pattern tracing paper over the bodice-front pattern. Using a pen or pencil, trace the bodice shoulder, neckline, surplice edge and center-front line. Trace the bodice lower edge from the surplice lower edge to the center-front line **(A).**
- Position the bodice front pattern over the pattern tracing paper, orienting the pattern so the traced line extends 2" from the bodice-front upper edge and neckline. **(B).** Cut out the traced bodice front from the pattern tracing paper along the lines; pin **(C).**
- Repeat to add 2" to the bodice back neckline edge.
- From the silk, cut two front-left and front-right bodices and two back-right and back-left bodices.
- From the chiffon, cut one front-left and front-right bodice, one back-right and back-left bodice and two sleeves.
- Staystitch the pattern pieces, as indicated by the pattern instructions.

A Trace bodice.

B Orient bodice.

C Cut out altered bodice.

D Pin right-tunic surplice edge over left-tunic surplice edge.

E Stitch rectangle upper edge to gather fabric.

Embroider

Note: Choose a design that has plenty of open areas with minimal fill stitches.

- Baste ⅝" from one silk front-right panel neckline. Position one interfacing strip on the panel wrong side, aligning one interfacing long edge with the basting line. Fuse the interfacing, following the manufacturer's instructions. Repeat to baste and fuse an interfacing strip to one silk front-left panel neckline.
- Hoop two pieces of stabilizer, orienting one layer so the grain is vertical and orienting the other layer so the grain is horizontal. The opposing grainline directions help to stabilize the fabric. Load the design into the machine and thread the machine with embroidery thread.
- Print six templates of the chosen design. Position the templates side-by-side along the front-right panel neckline beyond the basting line, rotating every other design 180°. Refer to the photo at left for design placement. Once satisfied with the placement, mark each design center using a removable fabric marker.
- Position the panel over the stabilizer, aligning one mark within the hoop and using temporary spray adhesive to secure. Or use the baste-in-the-hoop function, if applicable, to secure the fabric to the stabilizer. Place the hoop onto the machine. Embroider the

design. Once the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and the fabric from the hoop. Tear away the stabilizer beyond the design perimeter. Repeat to embroider the remaining designs. Remove the basting stitches, if applicable.

- Repeat to embroider the front-left panel, mirror-imaging the designs featured on the front-right panel.

Construct

- Position the embroidered silk front panels right side up on a flat work surface. Position the chiffon front panels right side up over the corresponding embroidered panels; baste along the armseyes, sides and lower edge. Fold the chiffon neckline 2" toward the wrong side; baste. Baste along the shoulder and surplice edge to secure the fold. Designate the panels as the front-right tunic and front-left tunic, respectively.
- Repeat to baste the chiffon back panels to the corresponding silk back panels, folding the chiffon neckline 2" toward the wrong side. Designate the panels as the back-right tunic and back-left tunic, respectively.
- With right sides together, align the front-right tunic with the back-right tunic along the shoulder; stitch. Repeat to stitch the front-left tunic to the back-left tunic. Designate each tunic as the right tunic and left tunic, respectively.
- With right sides together, align the remaining silk front-right panel with the silk back-right panel along the shoulder; stitch, and then press open the seam. Repeat to stitch the remaining silk front-left panel to the silk back-left panel. Designate the panels as the right lining and left lining, respectively.
- With right sides together, pin each lining piece to the corresponding tunic piece. Stitch along the necklines and surplice edges.
- With right sides together, stitch the tunic sides. Repeat to stitch the lining sides. Remove the basting stitches.
- Position the right-tunic surplice edge over the left-tunic surplice edge, aligning the center-front lines; pin **(D).** Baste along the bodice lower edge. Tack each surplice upper edge to secure.
- Measure the bodice lower edge, and then add 20"; record. Cut one chiffon rectangle and silk rectangle each measuring 20" wide x the recorded measurement. Designate one long edge of each rectangle as the upper edge. Position the chiffon rectangle over the silk rectangle with right sides facing up; baste the rectangle perimeter to secure the layers. Designate the rectangle as the tunic skirt.
- Wind elastic thread in the bobbin, following the machine manual instructions. Select a 6mm-long straight stitch. Stitch ¾" from the skirt upper edge. Repeat to stitch two additional rows, spacing the rows ⅜" apart **(E).**
- Shift the gathers to align with the bodice lower edge, if needed. With right sides together, align the skirt upper edge with the bodice lower edge; stitch, using a ½" seam allowance. Remove the basting stitches along the bodice lower edge.
- Stitch the zipper and sleeves and hem the sleeves and tunic lower edge, following the pattern directions.

DESIGN
Outline flower: Cactus Punch, Journal (collection #SE003), Blissful Bough (design #00303); (800) 933-8081, cactuspunch.com

Alaskan Landscape

by Michele Mishler

Make a beautiful embroidered jacket that combines decorative stitches with scenic Alaskan appliqué designs, creating a unique and stylish winter wearable.

Simplicity 4789, Modified

SHOPPING LIST

- ☐ jacket pattern (such as Simplicity 4789)
- ☐ microsuede & coordinating lining fabric (amount according to pattern envelope plus ½ yard)
- ☐ 5 coordinating print fat quarters
- ☐ notions (according to pattern envelope)
- ☐ tear-away stabilizer
- ☐ thread: all-purpose, bobbin & embroidery
- ☐ temporary spray adhesive
- ☐ five 1"–diameter buttons
- ☐ removable fabric marker or tailor's chalk
- ☐ pattern tracing paper
- ☐ appliqué foot
- ☐ hand sewing needle
- ☐ quilt guide (optional)
- ☐ embroidery designs: 5"x7" Alaskan appliqué, 7"x12" Alaskan appliqué & fish border

Get Started

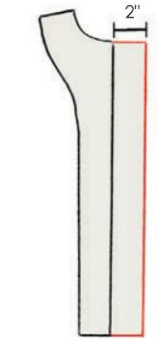
Note: The featured jacket pattern was altered to include a lining and placket.

- Trace the front facing onto pattern tracing paper. Using a ruler and marker or chalk, draw a 2"-long horizontal line that extends from the facing center-front upper edge. Repeat to draw a 2"-long horizontal line from the facing center-front lower edge. Use a ruler to connect the upper-edge line end with the lower-edge line end **(A).** Cut out the front facing along the lines. Designate this piece as the altered front facing.
- Position the jacket front right side up on a flat work surface. Position the original front facing right side up over the jacket front, aligning the center-front, neckline and shoulders. Trace the facing curved edge onto the jacket front **(B).** Set aside the front facing.
- Measure 1¼" to the right of the front-facing line upper edge; mark on the jacket-front upper edge. Repeat to mark 1¼" to the right of the front-facing line lower edge on the jacket-front lower edge.

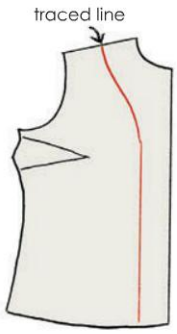
Connect the marks using a ruler, following the facing curve **(C).** Designate the line as the lining cutting line.

Cut

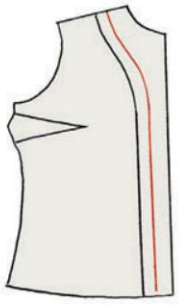
- Position the jacket front and back panels on two layers of microsuede. Trace each pattern perimeter onto the fabric. Transfer the front darts onto the fabric wrong side.
- Cut the front pattern along the lining cutting line. Trace the jacket front and back pattern on two layers of lining fabric. Draw a 1" line that extends from the lining center-back upper edge. Mark the lining center-back at the waistline. Use a ruler to connect the extended line to the mark **(D).**



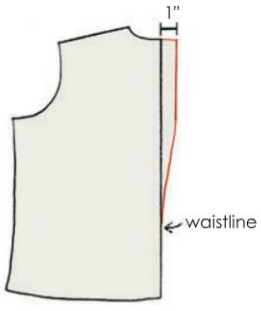
A Alter front facing.



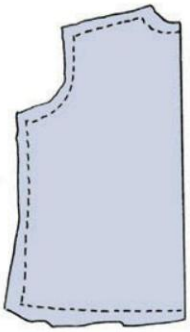
B Trace front facing curved edge on jacket front.



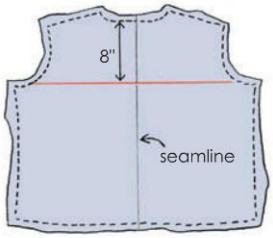
C Draw jacket lining cutting line.



D Alter lining back.



E Cut jacket back panel.



F Draw line on jacket back.

- Cut the jacket front panel, leaving ½" of fabric free beyond the traced lines. Cut the jacket back panel, cutting directly on the center-back line and leaving ½" of fabric free beyond the remaining traced lines **(E).** Cut the lining front and back along the lines.
- From the remaining microsuede, cut the sleeves, collars, one altered front facing and five 1"x4" bias strips. Position the original facing pattern right side down over the microsuede right side; cut out.
- From the remaining lining fabric, cut the sleeves. Trim 1" each from the lining front, lining back and lining sleeve lower edges.
- Measure each jacket front and back lower edge. Add the measurements; record. Measure each sleeve lower edge. Add the measurements; record. From the interfacing, cut enough 2"-wide bias strips to achieve the length of each recorded measurement. From the remaining interfacing, cut one collar and each front facing.

Decorative Stitch

- Thread the machine with all-purpose thread. With right sides together, stitch the back panels along the center back, following the pattern instructions. Press open the seam.
- Select a built-in machine decorative stitch that has an open pattern, such as a smocking stitch.
- Position a piece of scrap microsuede right side up over a piece of tear-away stabilizer. Thread the

machine with embroidery thread. Note: The featured jacket showcases 40-wt. variegated embroidery thread for the decorative stitches.

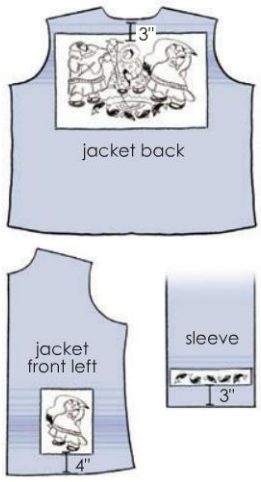
- Test-stitch the chosen decorative stitch. If needed, adjust the stitch width and length until the stitches are satisfactory. Record the desired stitch width and length.
- Measure 8" from the neckline center on the jacket-back right side; mark. Draw a horizontal line that extends from the mark to each jacket side **(F).**
- Float a piece of tear-away stabilizer under the jacket back; pin. Thread the machine with embroidery thread. Stitch a row of decorative stitches along the line.
- Repeat to stitch 14 rows of decorative stitches above the first stitching row, alternating between several thread colors. Use the presser foot edge as a guide for spacing the rows. To space the rows wider than the presser foot, use a quilt guide or specialty border foot as a guide. For the featured jacket, the rows are spaced ⅛" to ¾" apart with alternating white, lavender, light blue and variegated thread colors.
- Repeat to stitch seven rows of decorative stitches on each sleeve, beginning the first row 3" from each sleeve lower edge. Space the rows as desired.
- Repeat to stitch 15 rows of decorative stitches on the front-left panel, beginning the first row 5" from the lower edge. Space the rows as desired.

Embroider

- Print one template each of the large and small appliqué designs and two templates of the border design. Place the large appliqué design template along the jacket-back right side 3" from the neckline upper-edge center. Place the small appliqué design template along the front-left panel center 4" from the lower edge and the border design 3" from each sleeve lower edge **(G).** Once satisfied with the placements, mark each design center using a removable fabric marker or chalk.
- Hoop the jacket back with two layers of tear-away stabilizer, centering the large appliqué mark within the hoop. Load the large appliqué design into the machine. Thread the machine with embroidery thread, and then place the hoop onto the machine. Embroider the outline stitches for the first appliqué element.
- Once the outline stitches are complete, position a fat quarter over the stitches, using temporary spray adhesive to secure. Place the hoop back onto the machine and embroider the tacking stitches.

Tip

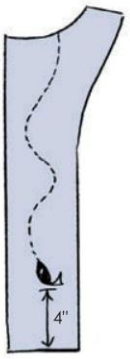
If you suffer from allergies or asthma, use a washable glue stick in lieu of temporary spray adhesive.



G Place design templates.

Download
the fish border design for FREE at cmemag.com/articles/Alaskan_Landscape until February 29, 2011. The design will be available for purchase by emailing changingtides@iname.com after the expiration date.

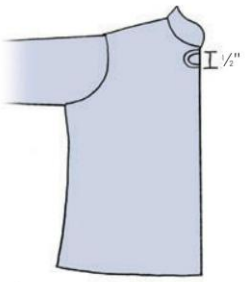
- Once the tacking stitches are complete, remove the hoop from the machine, but don't remove the fabric from the hoop. Trim the fabric close to the stitching. Place the hoop back onto the machine. Repeat to embroider the remaining appliqué elements and design, following the design instructions.
- Embroider the small appliqué design as per the previous appliqué instructions, and then embroider the border design. Note: The featured jacket also showcases embroidery on the original facing piece for a decorative touch. If desired, embroider one fish along the facing centered 4" from the lower edge. Stitch a curved line of decorative triple running stitches, beginning from the fish mouth, to create a fishing line **(H).**
- When the embroidery is complete, tear away the stabilizer beyond each design perimeter. Press each design from the wrong side.



H Embroider fish along facing, if desired.

Construct

- Trim the front and back panels along the lines to align with the original patterns.
- Fuse the corresponding interfacing piece to each front facing and collar, following the manufacturer's instructions. Repeat to fuse interfacing strips to each sleeve lower edge, piecing the interfacing strips if necessary.
- With right sides together, stitch the jacket front panels to the back along the corresponding shoulder and side seams, following the pattern instructions. Press open the seams. Stitch the sleeves, and then set in the sleeves according to the pattern instructions.
- With right sides together, stitch the collars along the curved edge; grade the seam. Turn the collar right side out; press. Baste the collar to the jacket, following the pattern instructions, beginning and ending the stitching ⅝" from the front-panel raw edges.
- Fuse bias interfacing strips along the jacket lower-edge wrong side, following the manufacturer's instructions. Trim any excess interfacing beyond the fabric edges, if necessary.
- Fold each fabric strip in half lengthwise with right sides together; stitch ¼" from the fold. Trim the seams to ⅛", and then turn the tubes right side out to create button loops; press.
- Position one button loop along the jacket front-right panel on the right side, aligning one loop end with the front-panel upper edge and the opposite end with the front-panel raw edge and ½" from the first end **(I).** Adjust the loop size to accommodate the chosen button, if necessary, keeping in mind seam allowances. Baste the loop ends.
- Repeat to position the remaining loops along the front-right panel, spacing each loop approximately 4" apart. For the featured jacket, the final button loop is 2½" from the lower edge.
- Stitch the lining center-back seam with right sides together. Create a 1" tuck along the center-back seam upper edge; baste.
- With right sides together, stitch the altered front facing to the lining front-left panel, ending the stitching 4" from the lower edge. Press the seam toward the lining. Repeat to stitch the remaining facing to the lining front-right panel.
- With right sides together, stitch the corresponding lining front panels to the lining back along the shoulder and side seams. Press open the seams. Stitch the lining sleeves, and then set in the sleeves following the pattern instructions.
- With right sides together, stitch the jacket and lining along the front-panel raw edges. Pin the jacket to the lining along the neckline, sandwiching the collar between the layers and aligning the shoulder and center-back seams. Note: The facing with button loops aligns with the neckline, but the opposite facing extends beyond the neckline edge to create the placket.



I Position button loop.

- Stitch the neckline through all layers; grade the seam. Turn the jacket right side out; press. Fold and press the placket so it's 1" wide.
- Fold the jacket lower edge toward the wrong side at the desired hem length; press. Repeat to fold each facing lower edge toward the wrong side to align with the jacket lower-edge fold. With right sides together, hand stitch each facing to the jacket along the fold. Fold the lining lower edge ½" toward the wrong side; hand stitch over the jacket hem. Repeat to hem and stitch the sleeves.
- Mark button placements along the placket/panel seam to correspond with each button loop. Hand stitch one button at each mark.

DESIGNS

Border, Large Appliqué & Small Appliqué: Changing Tides, Ice Fishing collection; changingtides.com (email changingtides@iname.com to order design collection)

SOURCES

Janome provided the Memory Craft 11000 sewing and embroidery machine used to construct the featured jacket: janome.com.
OESD provided the Ultra Clean & Tear stabilizer: embroideryonline.com.

Manipulate a simple design on the machine screen to create a beautiful, intricate wreath design to embellish a rustic burlap pillow.

Rustic Refinement

by Susan Beck

For more burlap embroidery tips, see "Material World: Burlap" in the Sept/Oct '10 issue of *CME*. Order the back issue at quiltandsewshop.com.

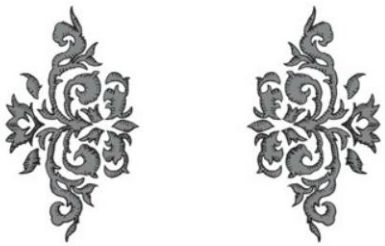
SHOPPING LIST

Supplies listed are enough to make one 14½"x19" pillow.

- ☐ 17½"x22" rectangle each of burlap and coordinating felt
- ☐ two 13"x14½" rectangles of heavyweight cotton or wool fabric (pillow back)
- ☐ 2½ yards of 2½"-wide coordinating bias binding
- ☐ 5"-long piece of ¾"-wide hook-and-loop tape
- ☐ 4 yards of 2mm-wide coordinating decorative cording (such as rattail)
- ☐ 10"x15" pillow form (See "Custom Pillow Form" on page 51.)
- ☐ tear-away stabilizer
- ☐ water-soluble topper
- ☐ temporary spray adhesive
- ☐ machine feet: couching & walking
- ☐ needles: size 90/14 embroidery & universal
- ☐ thread: all-purpose, bobbin & embroidery
- ☐ hand sewing needle
- ☐ chalk marker
- ☐ embroidery design

Embroider

- Load the design into the machine. Open a new page on the machine screen. Turn on the machine screen's grid to help arrange the designs symmetrically. Position the design on the screen right-side edge. Mirror-image the design, and then position it across from the first design **(A).**



A Mirror-image design and place across first design.

Burlap Basics

Learn professional tricks to successfully stitch burlap fabric:

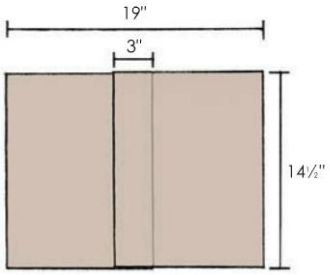
- **Burlap dulls needles, so have an extra needle on hand. If the needle makes a popping noise as it penetrates the fabric, change the needle.**
- **Burlap ravels easily. Handle it gently and serge- or zigzag-finish all raw edges to prevent fraying.**
- **Use a water-soluble topper when embroidering burlap to prevent the stitches from sinking into the fabric.**
- **Use a walking foot to help prevent burlap from stretching.**
- **Check the fabric grain before cutting, as burlap's rough texture makes it difficult to cut along the grainline.**

- Duplicate the combined design, and then rotate it 90° to create a wreath **(B).** Ungroup the designs, if necessary, to arrange them so they form an even circle. Group the designs to form one wreath design, and then resize the wreath to fit within the hoop, if necessary.
- Align the burlap and felt rectangles with wrong sides together, using temporary spray adhesive to secure. This is the pillow front.
- Fold the rectangle in half lengthwise and widthwise; mark the foldline intersection using a chalk marker. Cut a topper rectangle larger than the design. Moisten the topper corners. Center the topper rectangle over the foldline intersection; finger-press the topper corners to secure.
- Hoop the pillow front with a piece of tear-away stabilizer, centering the foldline intersection within the hoop. Place the hoop onto the machine, and then embroider the design.
- Once the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and the fabric from the hoop. Carefully tear away the stabilizer and remove the topper using a damp cloth or cotton swab. Don't immerse the pillow front in water.
- Trim the pillow front to 14½"x19", centering the design.

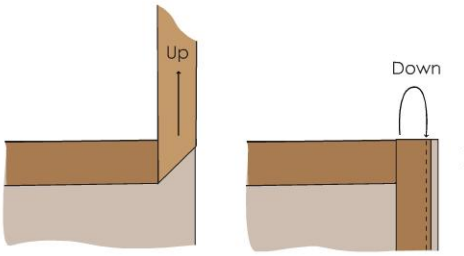
Construct

- Position one pillow-back rectangle right side down on a flat work surface. Fold one short edge ½" toward the wrong side. Fold the edge another 1" toward the wrong side; topstitch. Repeat to stitch one short edge of the remaining pillow-back rectangle.
- Center the hook-tape piece over one hemmed short-edge right side; pin, and then stitch the tape perimeter. Center the loop-tape piece over the remaining hemmed short-edge wrong side; pin, and then stitch the tape perimeter.
- With the right sides facing up, overlap one hemmed edge 3" over the other hemmed edge, forming

B Duplicate combined design and rotate to create wreath.



C Overlap hemmed edges.



D Fold binding up and over itself.

a 14½"x19" rectangle; pin **(C).** Trim the excess fabric, if necessary.

- Position the pillow front right side up on a flat work surface. Draw a rectangle 2¼" from the pillow-front edges.
- With wrong sides together, align the pillow front and back with the front side facing up.
- Install a couching foot onto the machine. Position a length of cording along the drawn rectangle; pin, and then topstitch the cording using a 2mm narrow zigzag stitch. Abut the cording ends for a seamless look.
- Serge- or zigzag-stitch the rectangle perimeter through all layers ⅛" from the raw edges.

Finish

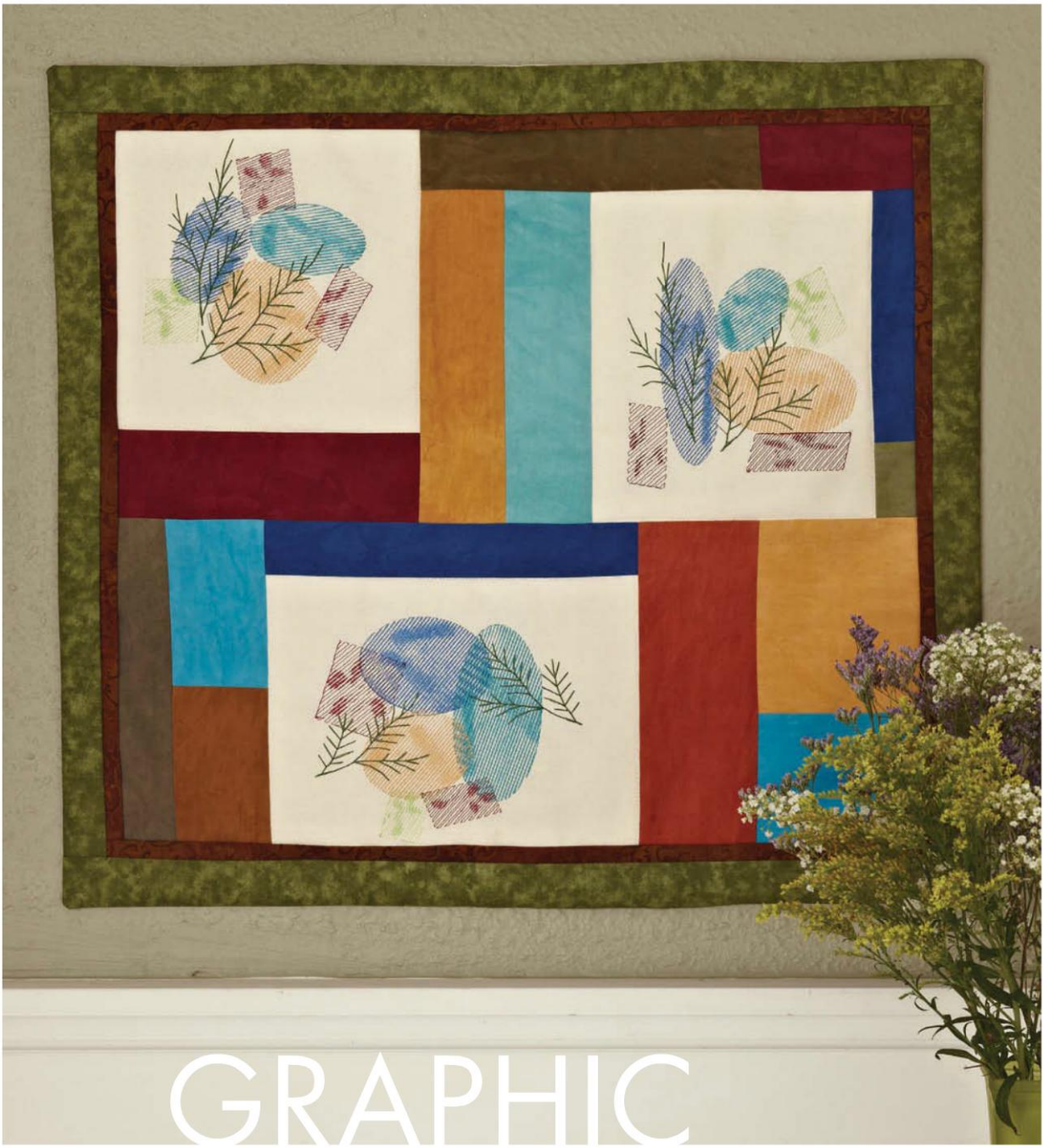
- Piece together the binding strips to create one 87"-long strip. Fold the strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together; press. Fold one binding end at a 45° angle. Position the folded end along the center of one pillow-front long edge with right sides together and raw edges aligned.
- Install a walking foot onto the machine. Begin stitching 2" from the folded end through all layers, using a ¼" seam allowance. Stitch to the corner, ending the stitching ⅛" from the adjacent fabric edge.
- At the corner, raise the needle, turn the fabric, and then fold the binding up and back down over itself to miter the corner **(D).** Lower the needle and continue stitching. Repeat to stitch the remaining binding, mitering each corner.
- End the stitching 1" before the binding beginning. Trim the binding end so it fits inside the binding beginning. Insert the binding end into the beginning fold; continue stitching.
- Fold the binding toward the pillow back. Slipstitch the binding fold to the pillow back.
- Insert the pillow form into the pillowcase.

Custom Pillow Form

When an unusual pillow form size is needed, make your own using quilt batting and polyester fiberfill. Using batting instead of fabric gives the pillow a smooth appearance because it's thick enough to disguise any stuffing lumps.

- For the featured pillow, cut one 15"x20" rectangle of low-loft batting.
- Fold the batting in half widthwise so it's 10"x15". Stitch the batting perimeter using a 2.5mm zigzag stitch, leaving a 6" opening along one edge for stuffing.
- Loosely fill the pillow form with polyester fiberfill. Note: A flat pillow form works better for a flange-style pillow.
- Pin the opening, and then zigzag stitch the opening closed.

DESIGN
Flourish: OESD #12281, Urban Trench, Black Flourish Centerpiece, #NB687_48; embroideryonline.com



GRAPHIC ELEMENTS

by Mary Carollo

Use digitizing software to create and combine unique embroidery designs that mimic impressionist art.

Photo Conversion

The photo conversion feature in digitizing software is typically used to convert photos into stitching data; however, it can also be used on any graphic to create unique results. When converting a photo, the linear stitching pattern has subtle shading variations that highlight facial features. When working with a graphic that has a simple shape, the linear stitching pattern creates a subtle effect that resembles soft brush strokes.

SHOPPING LIST

- ☐ digitizing software (with photo conversion option)
- ☐ computer drawing program (such as Paint)
- ☐ thread: bobbin & embroidery
- ☐ hand sewing needle
- ☐ photo editing software (optional)
- ☐ leaf clipart design

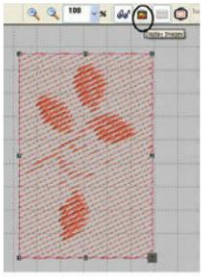
Leaf Design

- Open a new page in the software program. Open the leaf clipart design onto the page.
- In the photo editing options, change the grain angle to 25°, and then click OK. Most default grain settings are 0°, which limits stitch dimension. The leaf will have lines across the design that signify the stitches **(A).**
- Remove the leaf graphic to view the stitches **(B).**

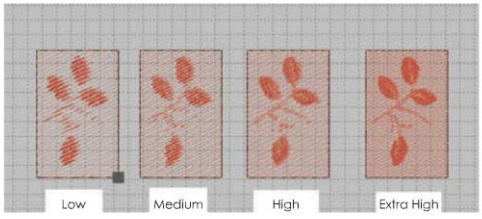
Stitching Style

- Change the resolution and grain angles to alter the color depths and detail accents, as desired **(C).** Save the design in the appropriate machine format.
- Repeat to create two additional leaf designs using different resolutions and angles for a varied appearance **(D).** Save each design in the appropriate format.

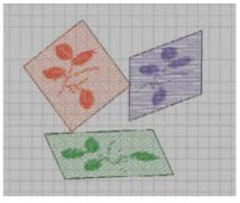
A Lines signify stitches.



B Remove leaf graphic.



C Change resolution and grain angles.



D Create two additional designs.

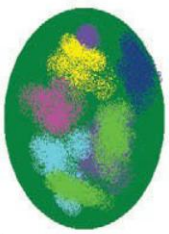
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

Use the unique designs to embroider myriad items, including:

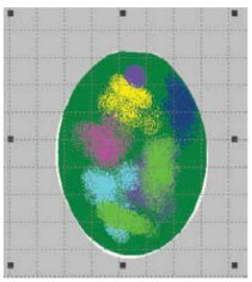
- **Quilt blocks for a fun, visually appealing quilt.**
- **A child's backpack or overnight bag.**
- **Home-décor projects, such as curtains, pillowcases or place mats.**
- **Garment or curtain edges to create interesting borders. Create different design sizes and shapes, but embroider them using the same thread color for a unique textured look.**

Oval Design

- Open a new page in the drawing program. Select any color except for black. Select the circle tool. Draw a 2"- to 4"-long oval.
- Color the oval using the same color as the outline.



E Spray within oval.



F Crop to outline oval perimeter.

- Select the spray paint tool. Spray several areas within the oval, using various colors **(E).**
- Save the design. Open the design onto a new page in the digitizing software.
- Crop to outline the oval perimeter **(F).** If the software doesn't have a cropping tool, use photo editing software to crop the oval before loading it into the digitizing program.
- In the photo editing options, change the grain angle to 15°.
- Save the design in the appropriate machine format. Repeat to create two additional ovals using different densities and angles.
- Note: The stitching pattern of the Photo program uses the color variations to produce different shading effects. Experiment with various colors to view the different effects when the photo program converts each stitch area. A darker base shade produces a darker design; a lighter base shade produces a lighter design.

Embroider

- Load the designs into the embroidery machine. Print templates of each design and audition them on the fabric in a pleasing arrangement; mark the center cross marks.
- Hoop the fabric with the appropriate stabilizer. Embroider the designs.
- Once the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and the fabric from the hoop. Remove the stabilizer, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Thread a hand sewing needle with green embroidery thread and stitch a twig pattern over the embroidered designs using a backstitch, if desired. ■

SOURCE

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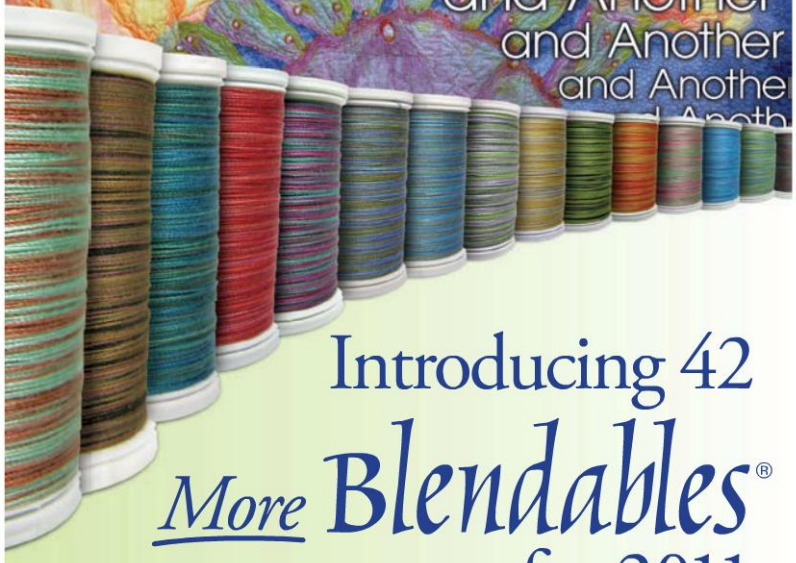

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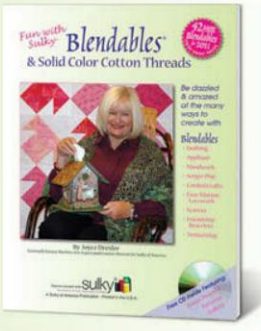
The quilted, inked wallhanging, "Desert Wonder," shown above, is by Instructor and Thread Artist, Linda Visnaw. See more of her work featured in the book.



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Window TREATMENT

by Kathy Durmon

Transform a plain button-down shirt into an eye-catching statement by creating windowpanes along the blouse front. Embroider vintage designs within the blouse squares to add a delicate touch.

SHOPPING LIST

- ☐ ready-made button-down linen shirt (without front placket or darts)
- ☐ ⅜ yard of matching linen fabric
- ☐ lightweight tear-away stabilizer
- ☐ thread: all-purpose & matching 80-wt. cotton
- ☐ water-soluble marker
- ☐ water-soluble adhesive tape
- ☐ edgestitching foot
- ☐ embroidery software (optional)
- ☐ vintage style embroidery designs

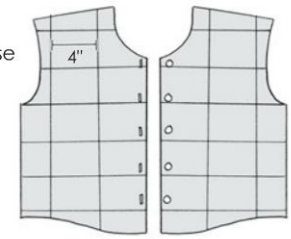
Get Started

- Starch and press the linen.
- Cut eight strips measuring 1" x the fabric width. Fold the strips in half lengthwise with wrong sides together; press, and then unfold. With wrong sides together, fold each strip long edge toward the fold-line to create ½"-wide strips; press.

Construct

- Place the blouse over an ironing board. Separate the blouse front from the blouse back with the blouse front facing up. Pin the blouse front to the ironing board.
- Using a ruler and water-soluble marker, draw vertical and horizontal lines 4" apart to create a grid on the blouse front **(A).** Avoid buttons and buttonholes when drawing the horizontal lines. Note: The horizontal lines appear longer along the blouse button placket, but the lines will appear even when the blouse is buttoned.
- Place a piece of water-soluble tape over each vertical line; finger-press. Peel away the paper from the tape. Fuse the fabric strips wrong side down over each tape piece, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Install an edgestitching foot onto the machine and thread the machine with all-purpose thread. Edgestitch each strip long edge close to the fold, ending the stitching along the blouse upper-edge seam and lower edge. Trim the strip ends ¼" beyond the stitching.

A Draw grids along blouse front.



- Remove ½" of the blouse seam along the upper edge directly above each strip end, and then insert each strip end into the blouse. Restitch the blouse seam to secure the strip ends. Fold each opposite strip end over the blouse lower edge toward the wrong side; topstitch along the blouse hem stitching to secure.
- Adhere and stitch strips along each horizontal line, following the previous instructions, inserting one strip end into the blouse side seam and folding the opposite strip end over the blouse center-front toward the wrong side.

Embroider

- Print templates of each design. Center each template on the blouse front within the grids. If desired, use embroidery software to increase the design height. Or, if the designs are too tall, separate the design along an inconspicuous area using embroidery software. (The floral with long stem designs on the featured blouse are split along the stem.) Save the designs in the appropriate machine format.
- Once the desired look is achieved, mark each design center using a water-soluble fabric marker. (The featured blouse also has a design along the left cuff ½" from the buttonhole and along the blouse back centered 2½" from the collar seam.)
- Load a design into the machine. Hoop the blouse with a piece of tear-away stabilizer, centering one design within the hoop. Place the hoop onto the machine and thread the machine with 80-wt. cotton thread. Embroider the design.
- When the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and the fabric from the hoop. Tear away the stabilizer close to the design perimeter. Repeat to embroider the remaining designs. ■

DESIGNS

Vintage designs: Martha Pullen Company, Inc., The Vintage Collection I Disk 2; (800) 547-4176 ext.2, store.marthapullen.com

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